

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING CONNECTION
STATE BETWEEN A CONNECTION MANAGER AND A
FAILOVER DEVICE**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method are disclosed for maintaining the state of a virtual connection supported by an active connection manager on a standby connection manager. The method includes configuring the standby connection manager to include a physical machine object that stores a physical IP address of a physical machine that is available to the active connection manager and a virtual machine object that stores a virtual IP address of a virtual machine that is implemented on the connection manager. A replication packet is received at the standby connection manager from the active connection manager wherein the replication packet includes a foreign IP address, the virtual IP address and the physical IP address. A standby connection object is stored in the connection manager. The standby connection object includes the foreign IP address, the virtual IP address and the physical IP address from the replication packet on the standby connection manager.